

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$600.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the TANF federal block grant. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2004 shall revert to the TANF federal block grant.

The Human Services Department functions as the single contact agency for the federal government regarding TANF programs and expenditures, and as such has ultimate responsibility for their proper use. To assist HSD in this oversight capacity, language similar to the following should be considered.

“The appropriation is contingent on the board of regents of New Mexico state university developing a program consistent with temporary assistance for needy families funding guidelines after review by both the human services department and the legislative finance committee.”

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In fiscal year 2003, HSD established a \$400,000 contract, subsequent to the Request for Proposal process, with NMSU to strengthen families and involve fathers and high risk families in Dona Ana, Valencia, and Otero counties with Nurturing Parenting classes enhanced with life skills training and nutrition education. Services are being delivered to 180 expectant, teen, single, divorced, abusive, and incarcerated parents and to 162 children.

MW/njw